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3/29/03

Atty. Docket No.: 22620/1222 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Murchie, et al.
Serial No.: 09/839,649
Filed: April 19, 2001
Entitled: "Assay for Identification of a Test Compound"

Examiner: S. Chunduri
Group Art Unit: 1637
Conf. No.: 2120

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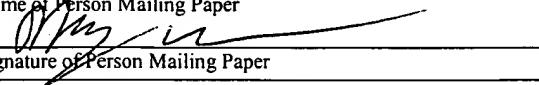
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Mary Wilson

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Signature of Person Mailing Paper

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Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002 in the above-noted U.S. Patent Application. Kindly enter the following proposed Amendments and Remarks.

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended claim 1.

1. (Amended) A method for determining whether a test compound binds to a target RNA, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said test compound with said target RNA and an RNA-modifying enzyme that covalently alters an existing base in said target RNA; and

(b) detecting the modification of said target RNA by said enzyme and comparing the amount of modification detected to that of a standard, wherein said comparing determines whether said test compound binds to said target RNA.



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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified patent application, please find the following documents:

1. Response to Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002;
2. Petition for One Months' Extension of Time;
3. Check in the amount of \$55.00 for the requisite fee; and
4. Return Post Card.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in the total fees to Deposit Account No. 16-0085, Reference No. 22620/1222. A duplicate of this transmittal letter is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark J. FitzGerald
Reg. No. 45,928 to
Kathleen Williams

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